

College Gardens Civic Association Park Questions
June / July 2006

Q1. Can you think of anything that would make the park special or unique? For example, in other parks you have visited, was there something striking that you think would fit in nicely in a redesigned park?

Non-Member: What makes this park special - the pond & wild life; basketball courts are also beneficial.

Non-Member: Sports facilities ~ softball field, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball, badminton, playground equipment.

Non-Member: waterfall; wild bird boxes; fish stocking;

Non-Member: Better landscaping, safer playground equipment, new basketball court, safer ground e.g. located by the swing and play area.

Non-Member: Fish in the pond

Non-Member: themed playground - for example one park we visit in MI has an all wooden playground designed to look like the outside of a castle, with lots of slides, stairs, & things to do

Non-Member: A gazebo, with tables & benches inside.

Non-Member: Modernize it, add bright colors, put back the shuttle in the kids park, make the bathrooms work and available - open a refreshment stand, make the park a family friendly place

Non-Member: better designed gazebo, play & picnic area, some kind of water garden in the overflow area

Non-Member: Make a way for disabled people to access park.

Non-Member: Gazebo, larger playground, picnic area

Non-Member: Could put many benches to sit on for convenience.

Non-Member: Keep the large open space (i.e., baseball, football/soccer field). Keep the snow field.

Non-Member: Playground equipment for all ages of children.

Member: Custom built play facilities like in East Lansing, MI. There is an artisan who designs park equipment and the community comes out to help build it.

Member: It might be nice to have a soft surface (such as used rubber) under the children's equipment - like at Hadley's Park.

Member: I would like to see some emphasis on the use of native plants, including trees, in any new plantings or landscaping that is done.

Member: The current pond is historical, in that it was part of the Anderson Farm.

Member: Yes, - leave it untouched.

Member: Several nice family oriented pieces of sculpture - "the children playing" etc - not too contemporary. Shaded sitting areas if possible. Can some sort of moving water be incorporated?

Member: A rep-rapped chase with a waterfall feature having a pump and maybe a filter

Member: + A wildflower / butterfly garden area + A bear statue w/ sunglasses like @ Lake Needwood!! + A "pier" into the pond, like at the Kentlands pond area. + Well, a nice piece of "accessible" funny artwork.

Member: Yes - have a distinctive fountain centrally located in the new SWM pond - - to be activated for special occasions; perhaps for National Night Out, Holidays, some weekends, etc.

Member: the doggy bags are good / 2 circular trail for running, walking, biking, permanent chess / checker tables.

Member: Understandable art

Member: flowers; fountain

Member: A bridge over the pond, of the decorative variety, would make it more accessible and kid-friendly. Also, keep the swings! It draws all the neighborhood kids.

Member: Extensive walks and grassy areas, maintain or increase number of flowering trees.

Member: Organized exercise path that circles whatever is installed. (walking or jogging, not bikes)

Member: The swinging hoops apparatus which is at Woodley Gardens Park

Member: beautiful gardens, comfortable, shaded benches, fish in pond, place for all (ages) kids to play.

Member: Try a footbridge if and when there is a narrow connector between a forebay and SWM pond.

Member: A well-designed play area for small children.

Member: Keep it simple

Member: Rubber base to playground (like Falls Park)

Member: A "jet d'eau," or water jet, to keep mosquitoes down in pond. Fish that eat mosquito larvae. Lily pads.

Member: Japanese style bridge over the pond / stone edging around pond - bathroom facilities

Member: Flower beds, art objects, easy access to pond for feeding ducks (popular w/ kids), play area

Member: Water features (waterfall, fountain), sculpture.

Member: Keep soccer fields, perimeter of trees.

Member: Must keep play area for children.

Member: Floral accents or highlights reflecting our area's garden club beautification.

Member: nice pathway around pond, with shady trees, flowers & sitting benches; bird feeder & bird baths

Member: Lovely plantings and landscaping. Replace trees, lighted path/walkway from Princeton to College Gardens ES.

Member: Playground that has tunnels! This is appealing to kids of all ages for hide & seek & imaginary games.

Member: Creative children's playground - themed - picnic area

Member: benches near playground so adults can sit while their children play; nice balance of sunny & shaded area

Member: Lots of trees

Member: Maintain children's play ground

Member: more toddler age-specific equipment

Member: Open space, more benches

Member: upgraded playground area for toddlers. Improved basketball court. Recreation paths w/ workout stations

Member: I like the Japanese garden style with its serenity or the water lilies of the aquatic gardens in NE DC.

Member: child play areas are essential

Member: Aside from making sure it's a quiet place of trees, wildfowl and suitable for contemplation, it might be nice to have a focal point of kinetic sculpture. Could be in the water or outside, but something that's interesting (not bizarre) to look at and moves with the wind.

Member: -waterfall or upward spray of water -contrasting colors of plant material

Member: A good / update playground - Needs to still be in the shade the way this one mostly is.

Member: Include a fountain for visual affects and aeration of the pond water.

Member: Excellent, new playground equipment would be desirable as well as more benches & trashcans.

Member: Natural landscaping, multiple benches, gazebo on or near the water

Member: Water flowing over rocks - not a waterfall but some rocks at an elevation at one end of the pond

Member: Make sure there is plenty of light if open after dark. Make sure there is ample seating f/people to relax.

Member: Playsets for older kids would attract a larger portion of the neighborhood. I love the rubber matting under the jungle gyms as opposed to wood chips. A walking trail around the expanded pond would be nice.

Member: Tree & the walking paths with intermittent benches, please keep a hill for sledding - updated playground equipment to encompass age range & handicap accessible - large field for ballgames

Member: more grills / picnic benches avail. For groups better seating areas around new pond.

Member: I just want it to be an area used by all age groups - play equipment, courts, fields, picnic tables, benches.

Member: Emergency alert system like Montgomery College Track

Member: Reduce the adverse impacts of the resident population of Canada Geese. The pond used to be clean!

Member: barbecue pit and picnic tables

Member: bicycle/walk paths in the park. Wondering how can we keep deer from the park away from our homes & flowers! An animal damage is a problem to discuss.

Member: I think there should be nicer landscaping; a more open airy feeling; several really nice comfortable benches and a [looks like 'view']. The city has never done much of any landscaping in College Gardens and things look shabby!

Member: Expand the children's playground to something like Candy Cane Park.

Member: Creative playground of shade and adequate seating. Stocking the pond w/ fish, turtles, and frogs.

Q2. What are some things to avoid in redesigning the park?

Non-Member: too much cement & too few trees

Non-Member: I am very unhappy to learn of the plan to cut down 30 trees. The park will be nothing without adequate shade trees. I hope other trees will be transplanted to replace them.

Non-Member: Can't overcrowd the park - stay away from grey & dull colors. Make the park user-friendly - right now its an eyesore and very undesirable.

Non-Member: We should replace the trees that are coming out, even in other areas of the park. We would not like to see the loss of 30 trees.

Non-Member: Maintain trees, grass, etc. Not all cement environment.

Non-Member: Paving too much.

Non-Member: Preserve large shade trees or replace. Redesign during sport's session

Non-Member: Attracting too many ducks & geese. The feces make the park unsanitary.

Member: I defer to planners.

Member: Destroying the habitat of the bird life which enjoys the pond; Don't put up an ugly fence.

Member: Closed-in spaces which encourage illicit activity.

Member: Areas that encourage undesirable groups or people hanging out. (ie-alcohol, drug users, homeless)

Member: + Make sure there is plenty of shaded area. + Keep some space for teenagers - don't get rid of the basketball courts, etc. + Let wild plants grow ~ blackberries, cattails

Member: Provide incentives for "trash cleaning" from new SWM facility in the Park

Member: too much sun - keep the shade

Member: loitering

Member: Don't destroy the swings.

Member: Destroying more trees

Member: Avoid too much emphasis on sports equipment. Try to emphasize natural beauty, peaceful walking areas, flowers, and the pond.

Member: Keep it simple - no personal names to honor groups

Member: Avoid: Curtailment of maintenance, loss of tot lot.

Keep: Retain the sledding area.

Member: Too much pond - reshaping it so it doesn't look like the one from the 1800's.

Member: Big ugly trash-filled mudhole like the SWM facility at Potomac Woods Park.

Member: Do not eliminate the sledding hill or tot play area or basketball court. They could be relocated (probably not the sledding hill).

Member: Over-filling it. I love leaving some open spaces.

Member: Facilities that attract older teenagers and young adults, particularly at night.

Member: Taking down trees. Manage to keep the basketball and volleyball courts.

Member: Avoid isolating the pond. Must have walkways / footpaths to keep it accessible.

Member: Keep basketball hoops further away.

Member: Volleyball court and basketball courts are eyesores (would not include them in redesign)

Member: Must ensure 'safety' so people do NOT get into the water.

Member: Poorly lighted areas make it scary!

Member: Gaudy statues. Or any statues.

Member: Create safe conditions (avoid inviting trouble). Keep bums out! Keep predators out! Keep it clean, safe and free from debris.

Member: No unsightly muddy areas when ponds recede to its resting size.

Member: "Secluded areas" not visible from roads, paths, houses, etc especially around the tot lot

Member: Get rid of the pond and the geese.

Member: Safety hazards

Member: Need better lighting

Member: Keep the play area from becoming obstructed view-wise from the street.

Need open areas for safety.

Member: No opinion

Member: How to prevent children from walking on ice covering ponds - other potential hazards to children's safety.

Member: Significant removal of existing trees.

Member: hazardous play equipment

Member: Removing all elements of a park and making it just a big body of water with no character. And there must be a plan WITH FUNDING to keep the forebay clear of litter and whatever doesn't belong there.

Member: High risk areas that will attract children.

Member: -endangering dedicated Dawn Redwood Tree -endangering children-improper redesign/lots of trash/deep water/etc..

Member: A MUD FLAT

Member: Should have no standing water.

Member: Get rid of the "sand pit". It encourages kids to play in very unsanitary sand where all the geese & stray cats relieve themselves.

Member: low-lying areas potentially prone to mud/standing water near playground as happens now.

Member: Don't lose covered area

Member: Dark, hidden areas as a result of vegetation.

Member: Darkness. The park should always have a lighting system for safety.

Member: Make the park and ball field less inviting to persons who don't live in College Gardens.

Member: Don't have too many basketball or other courts.

Member: The removal of many trees. There should also be adequate recreational area for different age groups (children and adults)

Member: Animals

Member: For safety & aesthetics: should be more open particularly between back of pond and neighborhood yards. Trees should be thinned out & trimmed NOT EVERY TREE THAT EVER GREW IN ROCKVILLE IS WORTH SAVING!

Member: The steps are too high on current equipment. An adult has to take big steps to get up them.

Member: Dark or hidden places for homeless vagrants to sleep or hide.